

Shantoo, Gurugee steer MSC

Sports Reporter



Mohammedan Sporting Club registered a massive eight-wicket victory against Public Works Department in the Navana Premier Division super league yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Wari relegated

Kalabagan made short work of Wari Club in the relegation league of Navana Premier Division cricket with a big seven wicket victory at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat Wari Club struggled all along against an accurate Kalabagan attack to muster a paltry 120 from the 44 overs sent down by the Bagan bowlers. Sumon was the top scorer with 34 while skipper Kamrul remained unbeaten on a brisk 25. Raju and Iftekar with 15 each were the other batsmen to reach double figures.

Gajanan Reddy bowled with fire to capture three wickets for 23 runs. Veteran Dipu Chowdhury with two for 16 kept a tight leash on the Wari batsmen.

Shri Lankan Sujith Pereira helped Kalabagan to cross the Wari total in 27.4 overs with a fine unbeaten innings of 57 off 55 balls, studded with seven fours. Marwar remained unbeaten on 20. Dipu scored 19.

Kajal picked up two of the three wickets that fell in the Kalabagan innings to finish with figures of two for 31.

TODAY'S MATCH

Lalmatia vs Rupali Bank (DCS)
Minhazul Abedin Nannu won

the toss and invited his counterpart to bat first on a wicket that looked full of runs. PWD, however, got off to a horrible start with both their openers



SHANTOO ... 89

running themselves out rather foolishly. Although Romesh Kaluwirathana, the Sri Lankan wicketkeeper-batsman looked in full control of things, the slide continued with Shaheen nicking one behind from medium-pace Golam Faruk Suru to make the score read a sickening 42 for three.

Hamin, the other Sri Lankan, arrived at the wicket and started repairing the damage with some sensible batting. Romesh, known for his pyrotechnics, curbed his penchant for strokes and collected the runs with deft placements. He put on 83 runs in about 17 overs with compatriot Hamin before lofting leg-spinner Waheedul Ghani in the deep where Gamage held a well-judged catch. Romesh played 88 balls to score 69 with the help of five boundaries.

Waheed, with his tantalising flight, removed Ehsan and Partha in quick succession to keep the possibility of taking the PWD score in the vicinity

of 250. Hamin, however, kept the scoreboard ticking with a workmanlike innings of 83 not out from only 82 balls. He remained there along with Kamrul who was unbeaten on 18 as PWD made 204 for six wickets from their quota of 45 overs! Hamin struck five boundaries in his knock of 83. Waheed bowled beautifully on a wicket that had very little for the bowlers, to capture three for 43. Sri Lankan paceman Gamage gave very little away to finish with none for 29 while Suru picked one for 24.

Mohammedans also appeared to be plagued with the run out problem as Jahangir Alam, the opener who topped the batting aggregate in last year's league, was run out for four. But that was first and the last scope for jubilation for the PWD fielders as Azhar Hossain Shantoo and Shri Lanka Sudarshan Gurugee dug in to help Mohammedans cruise past the PWD score of 204.

Shantoo, who has adopted a positive approach these days, thrashed the PWD bowlers in style to compile 89 runs. He cracked ten fours and a six before holing out to Fazlu off Shaheen. Gurugee, the Sri Lankan left-hander, played superbly to remain not out on 86, made from 96 balls with the help of ten elegant hits to the fence.

Aminul Islam Bulbul remained unbeaten on 22 to see Mohammedans through in 39.3 overs with eight wickets to spare.

Shaheen, the tall PWD off-spinner, was the only successful bowler with figures of one for 32.

TODAY'S MATCH

Brothers Union vs GMCC (Dhaka Stadium)



Mohammedan forwards attack the Ajax goal in yesterday's crucial Green Delta hockey league match at the Hockey Stadium. — Star photo

Mohammedans cross major hurdle

Sports Reporter



Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club crossed a major hurdle on their way to this year's league title when they recorded a comfortable two-nil victory against Ajax Sporting Club in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey stadium yesterday.

Mohammedans, who led the first half one-nil, dominated most of the proceedings despite the listless performances of some of their players.

Their Pakistani goal-getter Mumtaz Hider was bottled up by the Ajax defenders and most of their raids fizzled out near the Ajax goalmouth.

Mohammedans, whose collection goes up to 26 points after yesterday's win — the 13 in a row — shot into the lead in the 12th minute with the ganging Pakistani Ashar Karim Qatwal scoring a fine field goal. Ajax geared up after this but

their offensives lacked the cutting edge and the watchful Mohammedan defenders, backed up by Ashar and his compatriot Zahid Maqbool, kept the Ajax forwards at bay.

Mohammedans began the second half with renewed vigour and carried out a few menacing raids in the Ajax territory but Mumtaz and Barkatullah Chapal, who was not in his elements yesterday, bungled those openings.

Ajax's Arzoo shone in defence while their key-players like Nasim, Bayezid and Sadeq failed to make any headway. Pressure increased on their defence and Zahid Maqbool, the dapper, stockily-built Pakistani, sealed the fate of the match when he took a powerful hit from inside the D that gave no chance to Ajax custodian Kabir in the 61st minute (2-0).

Mohammedans, who earned seven penalty corners as opposed to Ajax's four, failed to

convert any because of poor marksmanship. Mohammedans got a very good chance to increase the margin but Zahid Maqbool's powerful hit was stymied by the Ajax custodian.

Ajax who remain stuck at 23 from 13 matches after yesterday's defeat, their first in the league, look well out of the championship race. Mohammedans top the points tally with 26 points while their nearest rivals Abahani Krira Chakra and Mariner Young's trail them by one point, each having 25 points from 13 matches.

In the first match of the day, Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha edged past bachelors Sporting Club by a solitary goal. Nakib scored a field goal in the eleventh minute to ensure full points for the insurance men.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sonali Bank vs Victoria SC (1:45)
Ansars vs Usha KC (3:15)

Livingston threatens Christie's reign



LONDON, Mar 11: Linford Christie's unbeaten five-year record against British sprinters will be put to the test by training partner Jason Livingston in the Britain-

USA indoor athletics International at Birmingham on Saturday, reports AFP.

Livingston captured Christie's European indoor 60 metres crown last month and equalled the British number one's European 60m record in

Rank-Xerox cricket

A good opening partnership between Khokon and Joy of 96 runs and an unbeaten 81 by Tuhin helped Orient Sporting Club record a massive 87-run victory over Amar Jyoti Club in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket super league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sent into bat, Orient made a handsome 240 runs for the loss of five wickets in their allotted 40 overs.

Khokon and Joy scored 50 and 51 respectively while Tuhin remained not out with 81 off 60 balls, a knock that included as many as ten boundaries.

Facing a huge target, Amar Jyoti were booked for 146 in 39.3 overs. Aman top-scored with 47 hitting seven fours and Rashed made 46 for Amar Jyoti.

Rajab, Sajjad and Mamun claimed two wickets each for Orient SC.

At the Mohakhali T&T ground, Evergreen Club posted an emphatic four-wicket victory over Azad Boys Club in the other match of the day.

Electing to bat, Azad Boys were all out for 144 runs in 39.3 overs.

Mashuk and Liton scored 37 and 18 respectively for Azad Boys.

Milon took three wickets while Sohul and Monir bagged two each for Evergreen.

In reply, Evergreen needed only 30.1 overs to score 146 with four wickets to spare.

Azim top-scored with 45 while Rasel got 36 for Evergreen.

Masuda Begum in the lead

Sports Reporter

Masuda Begum of Barisal shot to the top of the points table of the 13th national women's chess championship after the fourth round's matches at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Masuda, who was sharing the lead with defending champion Tanima Parveen of Chittagong at the end of the third day's play Tuesday, scored her third straight win to collect full three points with a game in hand in this ten-player, nine-round Swiss league competition.

Yesterday Masuda easily beat Hamida Rahman in her third round clash.

Roksana Gulshan Nikkon, who drew her match against Jahansara Huq Runu yesterday, is in second place with two and a half points from three games. Earlier in the day Nikkon registered a win over Afzana Parveen Nira in a second round match carried over from Sunday.

Runu has two points from four games.

International Woman Master and eight-time national champion Rani Hamid who lost her second round game to Tanima Parveen, suffered another setback yesterday in her quest for regaining the national title when she was forced to adjourn her game with Afzana Parveen after 50 moves.

In other matches yesterday, Afroza Begum Babiee beat Zakia Sultana of Narayanganj, a victory that gave her two points from her two games. Babiee could not play her first two games of the meet which began under the auspices of the Bangladesh Chess Federation March 8 due to some personal preoccupation.

Tanima Parveen, who drew the opening match of her title defence, was made to wait until today to play her fourth round match against Shabana Parveen Nipa.

Today being a rest day, the unfinished and carried over games will be played to clear the back log. Nikkon will play Babiee, while Rani Hamid resumes her adjourned game with Nira.

Shooter dies

LONDON, Mar 11: Soccer apprentice Ben Lee, 17, has died after falling from a stand roof while retrieving a ball at English Fourth Division club Burnley, reports Reuter.

Burnley officials said on Tuesday Lee had been carrying out normal cleaning duties when he spotted the ball.

Warning notices are posted at the point where he climbed on to the roof, said a statement.

Soccer results

BOCHUM, Germany, Mar 11: Germany drew 1-1 with Scotland (Halftime 1-1) in a European under-21 soccer championship first leg quarter-final match on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

UEFA Cup place by edging a 2-1 home win over Oldham in the English First Division here on Tuesday night, reports AFP.

They were shown the way by England striker Ian Wright, who scored his third goal of the season against the Lancashire Club and 21st in all 10 minutes before the interval.

Paul Merson headed Arsenal's second 13 minutes into the second-half as the Gunners, unbeaten in six games, threatened to run riot, but Oldham substitute Andy Ritchie struck five minutes from time.

At the other end of the table Notts County climbed out of the bottom three after being held to a goalless home draw by Aston Villa.

They owed the point to a brilliant penalty save by Steve Cherry, who atoned for pushing villa debut boy Neil Cox on the half hour by catching Steve Staunton's spotkick.

Welsh international Neville Southall was another goal-keeper to star as Everton drew 0-0 at Wimbledon, a result which stretched the London Club's unbeaten run under Joe Kinross to seven games.

In the Second Division the battled for premier league

Star-studded field at Tokyo



TOKYO, Mar 11: The current champions of the four Grand Slam events — Jim Courier, Stefan Edberg and Michael Stich — will lead the 1.19 million dollar Japan Open tennis tournament April 6-12, organisers said here Wednesday, reports AFP.

French and Australian Open winner Courier, who was also the runner-up at Flushing Meadow last season, successfully wrested the number one spot in the computer rankings from Edberg earlier this year.

But the US Open champion Edberg from Sweden, who is trailing the American by only 32 points in the rankings this

week, tops the bill in the elite Men's Field, aiming for the fourth consecutive victory and the fifth overall here.

He is expected to face threats from fifth-ranked Wimbledon champion Stich of Germany, who is able to beat anybody if he can put in his strong first serve consistently.

Another dangerous contender is Michael Chang, the 1989 French Open winner, as the 20-year-old Chinese-American returned to the top ten with a victory in the Indiana Wells tournament last weekend.

Fifty-six top-ranked players will take part in the men's singles competition on the Hard Courts at the Ariake Coliseum.

ving for the top prize money of 144,000 dollars and 230 points counting towards the ATP rankings.

The runner-up will collect 75,905 dollars and 173 points. Other prominent players are Derrick Rostagno, Aaron Krickstein, Brad Gilbert and Patrick McEnroe of the United States, Richard Krajicek, Paul Haarhuis and Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands and Anders Jarryd of Sweden.

Kimiko Date and Naoko Sawamatsu, Japan's top two players, are the best hopes of local fans in the women's singles event, which carries a 27,000-dollar first prize and 135 WTA points.

They must survive the 32-draw field which also includes Sabine Appelmans of Belgium, Uzi Frazier of the United States, Indonesian number one Yayuk Basuki, Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden and Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands.

Four French women, Alexia Dechaume, Pascale Paradis-Mangon, Sandrine Testud and Catherine Sutre are also on the list.

Gunners do Graham's bidding



LONDON, Mar 11: Arsenal responded to manager George Graham's call to challenge for a

UEFA Cup place by edging a 2-1 home win over Oldham in the English First Division here on Tuesday night, reports AFP.

They were shown the way by England striker Ian Wright, who scored his third goal of the season against the Lancashire Club and 21st in all 10 minutes before the interval.

Paul Merson headed Arsenal's second 13 minutes into the second-half as the Gunners, unbeaten in six games, threatened to run riot, but Oldham substitute Andy Ritchie struck five minutes from time.

At the other end of the table Notts County climbed out of the bottom three after being held to a goalless home draw by Aston Villa.

They owed the point to a brilliant penalty save by Steve Cherry, who atoned for pushing villa debut boy Neil Cox on the half hour by catching Steve Staunton's spotkick.

Welsh international Neville Southall was another goal-keeper to star as Everton drew 0-0 at Wimbledon, a result which stretched the London Club's unbeaten run under Joe Kinross to seven games.

In the Second Division the battled for premier league

places hotted up with David Speedie salvaging a 2-2 draw for leaders Blackburn against fifth-placed Southend with a dramatic equaliser 20 seconds from the end.

Southend had coasted into a 2-0 lead by the 31st minute through Andy Ansah and Brett Angell, but Chris Price launched Blackburn's comeback a minute before the interval as they climbed a point clear.

Cambridge's promotion hopes were dented, though, by a 2-0 home defeat by Newcastle, who triumphed with goals from Gavin Peacock and David Kelly.

In Scotland Glasgow Rangers charged towards a fourth successive championship thanks to a 3-1 victory at Hibernian.

The unerring accuracy of a deadly duo Ally McCoist and Mark Hateley lifted Rangers seven points clear of heart of Midlothian at the top of the table.

Scotland striker McCoist took his personal haul for the season to 29 by opening the scoring in the 39th minute, while England international Hateley reached the 20 mark with further efforts in the 44th and 68th minutes.

Hibs could have replied from the spot in the 75th minute after Andy Goram had impeded Gareth Evans, but the Rangers keeper blocked Keith

Wright's kick.

The Edinburgh side did eventually find a way past Goram via Evans, but the goal came from virtually the last kick of the match.

Officials may boycott golf meet

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Mar 11: Angry officials at the Honda Classic golf tournament could walk off the job this weekend in a labour dispute with the PGA Tour, a union attorney said, reports AP.

A walkout "is one of the options," Richie Phillips, attorney for the union, said by telephone from his office in Philadelphia.

"I'll have to work hard to hold them in this weekend," said Phillips, who led umpires on strike against major league baseball in 1979, '84 and '91.

Phillips said "there is a high state of fury" among the tour officials after receiving a management offer in contract negotiations between the Professional Golf Officials Association (PAGO) and the PGA Tour.

Wade Cagle, president of the union and the senior official at the Honda Classic, said he could not comment about the possibility of a weekend work stoppage.

Linares chess results

LINARES, Spain, Mar 11: World champion Garry Kasparov, playing a kings Indian defence, beat his Russian opponent Artur Yusupov on Tuesday to take him within sight of victory in the Linares international chess tournament, reports Reuter.

The 11th-round victory gives Kasparov, the only unbeaten player so far, a 1 1/2 point lead over Jan Timman of the Netherlands with only two rounds to go.

Former world champion Anatoly Karpov racked up another defeat, his third in the tournament, losing to Russian grandmaster Evgeny Bareev.

Other 11th round results: Miguel Illescas (Spain) drew against Valery Salov (Russian playing under Spanish flag) after 41 moves.

Jonathan Speelman (Britain) lost against Vasily Ivanchuk (Ukraine) after 33 moves.

Viswanathan Anand (India) drew against Boris Gelfand (Belarus) after 33 moves.

Ljubomir Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) beat Alexander Belyavsky (Russia) after 40 moves.

Nigel Short (Britain) lost against Timman after only 28 moves.

Standings after 11 rounds: Kasparov (Russia) 8 1/2, Timman (Netherlands) 7, Ivanchuk (Ukraine) 6 1/2, Karpov (Russia), Belyavsky (Russia) 6.

Gelfand (Belarus), Illescas (Spain), Anand (India), Salov (Russian playing under Spanish flag), Bareev (Russia) 5 1/2.

Yusupov (Russian playing under German flag) 5, Short (Britain) 3 1/2, Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) 4, Speelman (Britain) 3.

Dull, drab draws

Sports Reporter



Muktijoddha Sangsad and Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club shared points in a one-all draw in the First Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The result left Muktijoddha with 11 points from ten matches while Fakirerpool have seven also from ten outings.

Masud put Fakirerpool ahead in the very fifth minute of play with a powerful shot following a goalmouth melee (1-0).

Masud Rana equalised for Muktijoddha in the 49th minute with a neat placing shot (1-1).

Yellow card: Ibrahim of Fakirerpool and Ekram Rana of Muktijoddha.

Muktijoddha Sangsad: Pannu, Milon, Spar (Arif), Sobel, Emadul, Za Babu, Masud Rana, Fais Babu, Zakir (Hero), Riaz (Chapel) and Ekram Rana.

Fakirerpool FC: Dhanu, Dipu (Gobinda), Rakib, Akram, Ibrahim, Swapon, Moshli, Montu, Masud, Apu (Mokter) and Shaful (Mehdi).

The other match of the day between the new-comers Police Athletic Club and Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation Sporting Club ended in a goalless draw.

BRTC now have seven points while Police have five from ten outings each.

Anjan of Police failed to give his side the lead when his shot went straight to the BRTC custodian in the 14th minute.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Adamjee vs BJMC (1:30 pm)
Abahani vs Rahmatganj (3:30 pm)

Hero Wattana's sad homecoming

BANGKOK, Mar 11: Police shot dead two men wanted for the murder of Jimmy Wattana's father hours after the Thai snooker ace flew home for the funeral clutching his latest trophy, police said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The two men were gunned down on Tuesday night in a Bangkok street. Police, criticised for operating a "shoot-to-kill" policy, said the men were armed and resisted arrest.

They were suspected of killing Kowin Phub-Ob-Orm, father of "Jimmy" Wattana Phub-Ob-Orm, on February 24. Police believe the killing involved a dispute over gambling debts.

Wattana, Thailand's favourite sportsman, received a hero's welcome when he flew in to Bangkok on Tuesday from new triumphs on the snooker tables of Britain.

Hundreds of fans mobbed the 22-year-old at Bangkok airport. He attended his father's funeral in the afternoon. News of the murder was broken to him midway through a tournament.

"I am still confused," he said at the airport. "But strangely I felt like my father was with me when I played and it gave me a lot of help mentally."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Soft food
- 4 He calls the KO's
- 7 Indian Ocean sailing vessel
- 11 Mild oath
- 13 Turkish officer
- 14 Judge's gown
- 15 Unreliable witness
- 16 Soviet space station
- 17 Passage into a mine
- 18 Sudden attack
- 20 Coal barge
- 22 Comical one
- 24 Roman magistrates
- 28 Signs of labor unrest
- 32 Take effect
- 33 Diving bird
- 34 Row or line lead-in
- 36 Broad smile
- 37 Old saying
- 39 Decided officially
- 41 Military plane
- 43 He plays for pay
- 44 Rank
- 46 Mountain song
- 50 Castro's domain
- 53 Large cask
- 55 Yucatan Indian
- 56 Genus of swans
- 57 Hole in one
- 58 Irrational number
- 59 Couple
- 60 Stage of a journey
- 61 Former ruler of Tunis
- 19 Wild ox
- 21 Anagram of doe
- 23 Ring sparkler
- 25 Decoy
- 26 Pa. port city
- 27 Dispatch
- 28 Thick slice
- 29 Commotion
- 30 Meander aimlessly
- 31 Unhappy
- 35 Capitol VIP
- 38 It might be electric
- 40 Johnnie Ray hit
- 42 Competitor
- 45 Freshwater fish
- 47 Paint unskillfully
- 48 Bronte's Jane
- 49 Ship or slipper lead-in
- 50 New England cape
- 51 Director
- 52 Feather scarf
- 54 Young doe

Solution time: 24 min.

B	R	E	E	D	F	R	E	E	D		
B	E	E	T	L	E	L	E	A	V	E	
L	A	G	A	S	A	I	N	T	E	N	
E	G	O	A	R	M	E	D	L	I	E	
E	L	I	S	S	A	D	N	Y	S	E	
D	E	L	I	S	T	E	N	O	N	E	
R	E	I	R	O	O						
S	P	L	E	E	N	S	S	N	O	R	
P	I	O	N	F	A	S	S	C	O	W	
E	G	O	T	I	T	L	E	T	O	E	
E	N	S	U	R	E	A	V	I	A	T	E
D	I	E	S	E	L	N	E	R	V	E	D
C	R	E	E	D	G	R	E	E	D		

9-9 CRYPTOQUIP

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11		12		13		14					
15			16			17					
18			19		20	21					
			22		23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30			31		32				
33				34		35		36			
37											